

Faulk, Camilla

From: Matty Nelson [Matty@hopesacpc.org]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 4:54 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: comment CcR. 3.1

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed change of CrR3.1. I'm a victim advocate and have worked with victims of sexual assault during civil Orders for Protection court proceedings. There was one case when a child sexual assault victim had to face her perpetrator and being cross examined by him because he chose to represent himself. No legal counsel was appointed to the victim, and the minor with no legal background was terrified to face her perpetrator. The victim was scared and embarrassed by directly questioned by her perpetrator. The protection order was eventually denied and the child victim left with no sense of safety. She and her family felt the system failed them and there's no justice. She was re-traumatized by being questioned by her perpetrator. And this is for a civil protection order proceeding, I can't imagine what victims go through being questioned by their own perpetrators during the criminal proceedings. The proposal of providing restriction of questioning and third party questioning doesn't violate the defendant's rights, but it would help a lot to ease the trauma done to sexual assault victims in pro se cases. The victim centered approach is important to both prosecution and victims' healing. Thank you for your review and consideration of this issue.

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